



BUILDING TYPES STUDY:

RECORD HOUSES OF 1969

TWENTY EXCEPTIONAL NEW ARCHITECT-DESIGNED HOUSES
SELECTED FOR THE 1969 AWARDS OF EXCELLENCE FOR HOUSE DESIGN

ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

MID-MAY 1969



A MCGRAW-HILL PUBLICATION



Architects: WILSON, MORRIS, CRAIN & ANDERSON

(Talbott Wilson; Hal Weatherford)

Owners (sponsors): American Iron and Steel Institute, Houston Lighting and Power Company, and General Electric Company

Location: Houston

Engineer: James A. Cummins

Interior designer: Jack Evans

Landscape architect: Fred Buxton

Builder: Sam Johnson

Developer: Dwight M. Nichols, Jr.

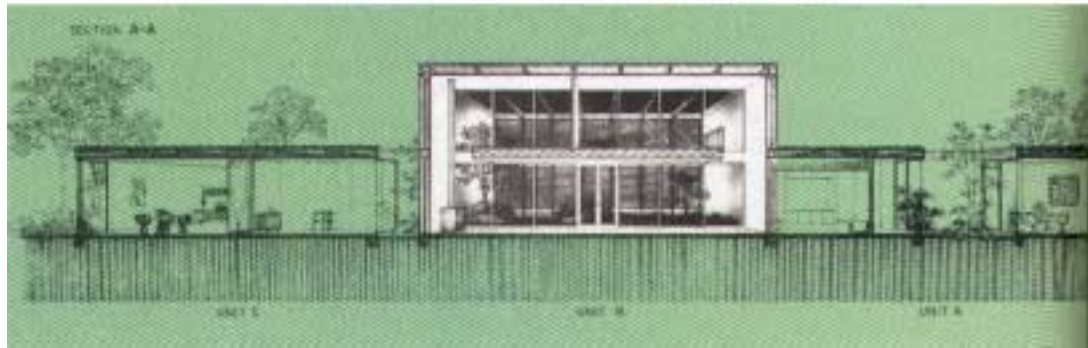
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These three townhouses (a two-story unit, flanked by two single-story ones) are unusually effective and elegant examples of the spaciousness and livability that can be achieved on a small urban lot. Though built as a promotional development to examine the uses and potential of steel in house construction (and steel is used throughout as structure, furniture, equipment and fittings), the design goes further, to demonstrate that material's compatibility with such other materials as wood, terrazzo, travertine; brick and stucco, to create comfortable, warmly attractive homes. A great amount of the elegance of the designs, however, was architect Talbott Wilson's use of the thin-lined precision possible with steel.

All the houses are quite introverted for privacy and have walled-in entrance courts. Other courts are sprinkled through the plans for added light and openness to the interiors. The family automobile entrance to each house is at the back, with a sheltered two-car parking space flanking a public alley.

In all the houses the partitioning (and, in the two-story house, the upper floor) is planned to give basic visual privacy, yet permit the eye to travel beyond for longer vistas.

The structure of the houses is steel post and beam on concrete slabs. Roofs are steel decking, surfaced with built-up roofing (and a small wood-slat roof deck on one house). Exteriors are stucco and red cedar louvers and screens. The fascia is steel. Interior partitions are gypsum board on steel studs. All the houses have air conditioning and all-electric equipment.



The two-story central house (unit B on plans and section) is given an unusually spacious quality by the full-height atrium (right), which is enclosed by operable wood louvers. These louvers—together with the brick floors which continue through the main floor—add a great sense of texture and warmth to the exposed steel beams and built-up angle or "star" columns.



Jay Oistad photos





UNIT A

Three courts, at the entrance, center and back, give daylight and a glimpse of the outdoors to most rooms in this house. The living room, dining room and study are all planned for visual privacy, but give a sense of space beyond. Lighting is planned for function and drama as well.



UNIT C

The third house (right) also has three courts, and a big living-dining room to gain spaciousness. Most furniture and accessories are white-gray-beige, with accents of orange and yellow. In varying proportions, these colors form the basic scheme for all three houses.

